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DEFECTS, RESPONSIBILITIES OF HUNGARIAN MACHINE STATIONS

Despite considerable results achieved during their 4-year existence, the Hungarian agricultural machine stations still have very serious defects, which hamper the development of producers' cooperatives. The machine stations have failed to become agrotechnical centers and central state organs for the development of producers' cooperatives and the attainment of increased crop yields.

The reason for the failure of the machine stations lies in the compromising attitude of their managements, failure to build up a system of tractor brigades, lax work discipline, and slipshod machine maintenance.

To eliminate these defects, the Council of Ministers issued a resolution, the highlights of which may be summarized as follows:

The basic task of the machine stations is to place their machine parks and agrotechnical facilities at the service of the producers' cooperatives, thereby assuring large-scale mechanized operations and application of the best scientific and practical methods. They are required to aid the producers' cooperatives in management, planning, and work organization. They must also help to train members of producers' cooperatives and to raise state and plan discipline.

The machine stations must be instrumental in increasing crop yields on the producers' cooperatives. They must increase the utilization of the machines and assure their proper maintenance. By better work organization and increased application of the premium system, individual responsibility for plan fulfillment and the quality of work must be increased.

The machine stations are also required to introduce basic agrotechnical methods in the producers' cooperatives. Provision must be made for the agrotechnical training of machine station employees. Before the principal agricultural operations start, the machine stations must issue agrotechnical instructions to their agronomists.

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The resolution contains detailed regulations on the organization of brigades, the premiums payable to tractor drivers and machine operators, and the norms applicable to work performed by combines. It states that, to avoid accidents, tractor drivers must be licensed and working conditions improved. Particular attention must be paid to improvement of the social and working conditions of women workers.

The prestige of the managements of the machine stations must be increased. The machine stations are responsible for the output of the producers' cooperatives. The plans of the machine station and of the producers' cooperatives served by it must be coordinated, and the agronomist of the machine station must collaborate in the preparation of the plans of the producers' cooperatives.

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